

# 2017

## MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development



MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

### STATUS REPORT



HEAD, HEART, HANDS, and HEALTH





The Mississippi State University Extension Service 4-H Youth Development program continues to promote an interest in learning by doing through a variety of educational programs.

With more than 61,000 4-H'ers between the ages of 5 and 18 and hundreds of adult volunteers, we focus on providing positive youth development experiences to young people by offering agricultural and environmental initiatives, encouraging agriculture awareness, and presenting opportunities in leadership, communication, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship. Our three mission mandates are healthy lifestyles; science, engineering, and technology; and citizenship and leadership.

Learning to grow. Learning to serve. Learning to live. Learning for life. The MSU Extension 4-H program is a path filled with fun and new skills, landmark accomplishments, lifelong friendships, and confident futures. The program

encourages diverse groups of young people to develop their unique skills and talents to their fullest potential. Young people participate in 4-H through clubs, special interest groups, after-school programs, camps, and many other activities. Learning by doing through hands-on activities and community involvement empowers 4-H'ers to develop and strengthen life skills.

The MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development program empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are young people who have confidence, know how to work well with others, know how to endure challenges, and stick with a job until it is done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born—they're grown.

MSU Extension 4-H Youth Development staff members continue to strengthen our programming efforts by securing resources to build stronger leaders for the future of Mississippi. The staff continues to secure funding from the National 4-H Council, the Mississippi 4-H Foundation Inc., Tractor Supply, TransCanada, and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Mississippi Inc. to support the total 4-H youth development program.

It is an honor for us to provide opportunities that impact youth development in the state of Mississippi.

Sincerely,

**Paula Threadgill**

*Associate Director*

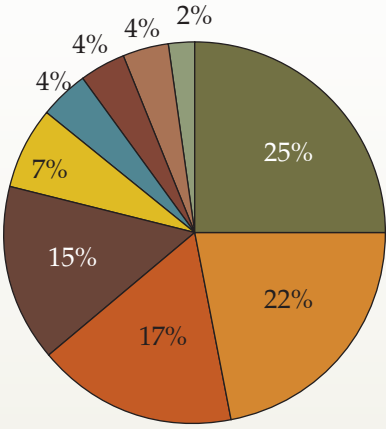
Mississippi State University Extension Service  
4-H Youth Development Program

# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE 4-H: A REFLECTION OF WHO WE ARE

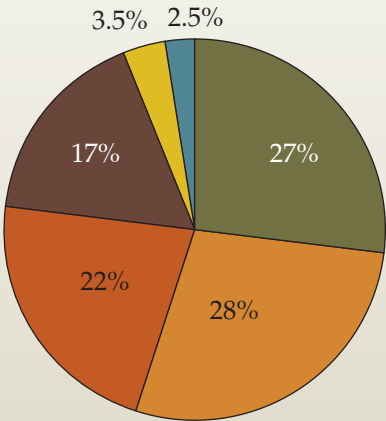
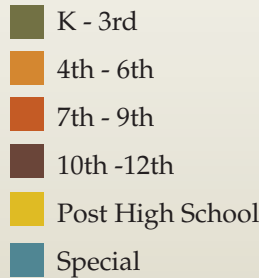
## 4-H Volunteers

5,723 adult volunteers (direct, indirect, and middle managers)

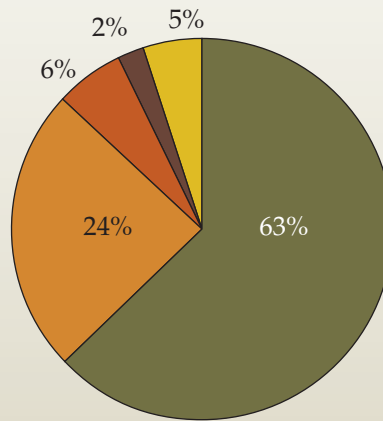
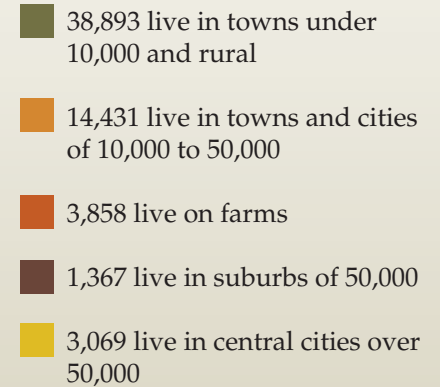
## 4- H Project Enrollment



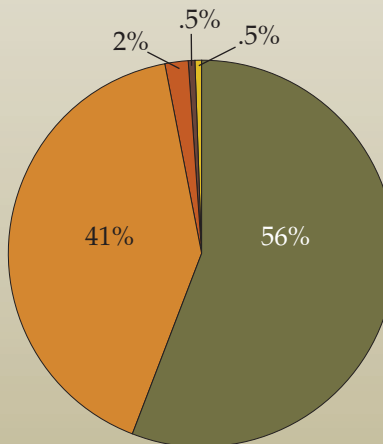
## Grade in School



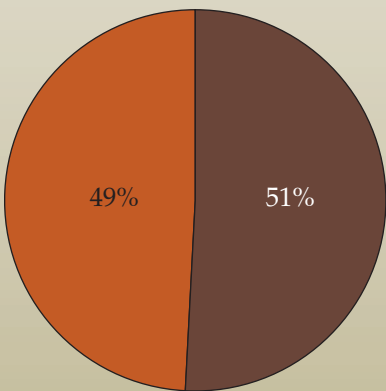
## Geographic Location



## Ethnic Background



## Gender



# Dedicated, Caring Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders

4-H volunteers make a difference in the lives of young people ages 5–18 by sharing their time and talent to lead 4-H clubs and projects. Volunteers have many responsibilities:

- Mentor children and teens across Mississippi.
- Serve as role models for 4-H'ers.
- Motivate children to be responsible.
- Teach young people leadership and citizenship skills.
- Encourage young people to reach their goals.
- Work with Extension agents to promote youth development.
- Coordinate school enrichment and special interest programs.



## Making the Best Better



**HEAD:** 4-H'ers focus on thinking, making decisions, and expanding their knowledge.

**HEART:** 4-H'ers are concerned about other people and accept the responsibilities of citizenship.

**HANDS:** 4-H'ers use their hands to learn new skills.

**HEALTH:** 4-H'ers are healthy physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially.





# 2016 National 4-H Conference Delegate Reflections

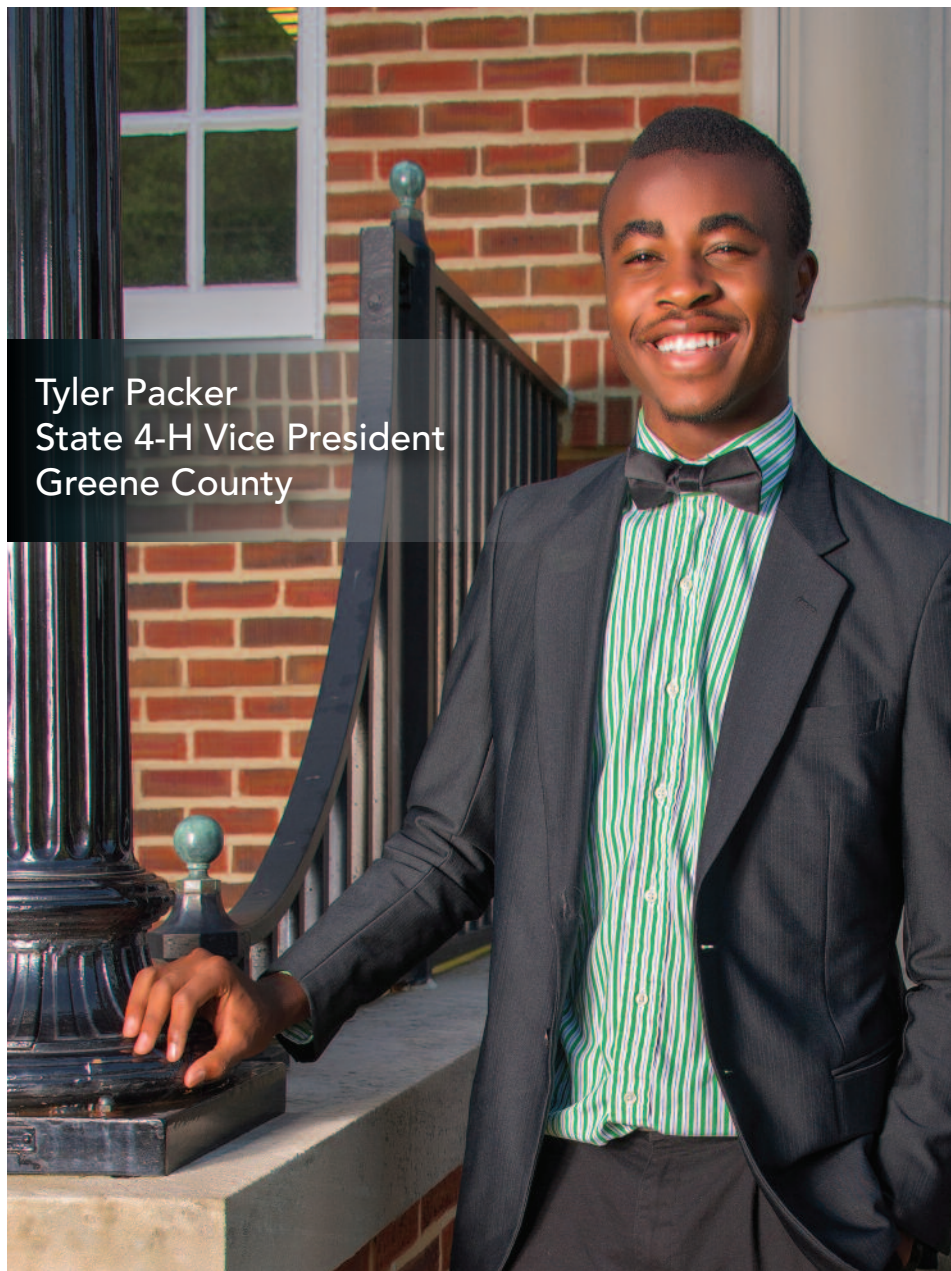


The theme of the 2016 National 4-H Conference was 4-H Locally Grown, Global Leaders. National 4-H Conference is administered by 4-H National Headquarters of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Deemed “the Secretary’s Conference,” this experience upholds a tradition dating back to 1927. The National 4-H Conference has remained faithful to its original design, while continuing to be future-focused.

The annual event is held in the capital for our nation’s top 4-H’ers, and, this year, I had the privilege to attend. The six days I spent in our nation’s capital were days that I will never forget in my life. From arriving at the airport and seeing the Washington Monument in the distance, I knew this trip would change my life. I experienced a great deal of new things.

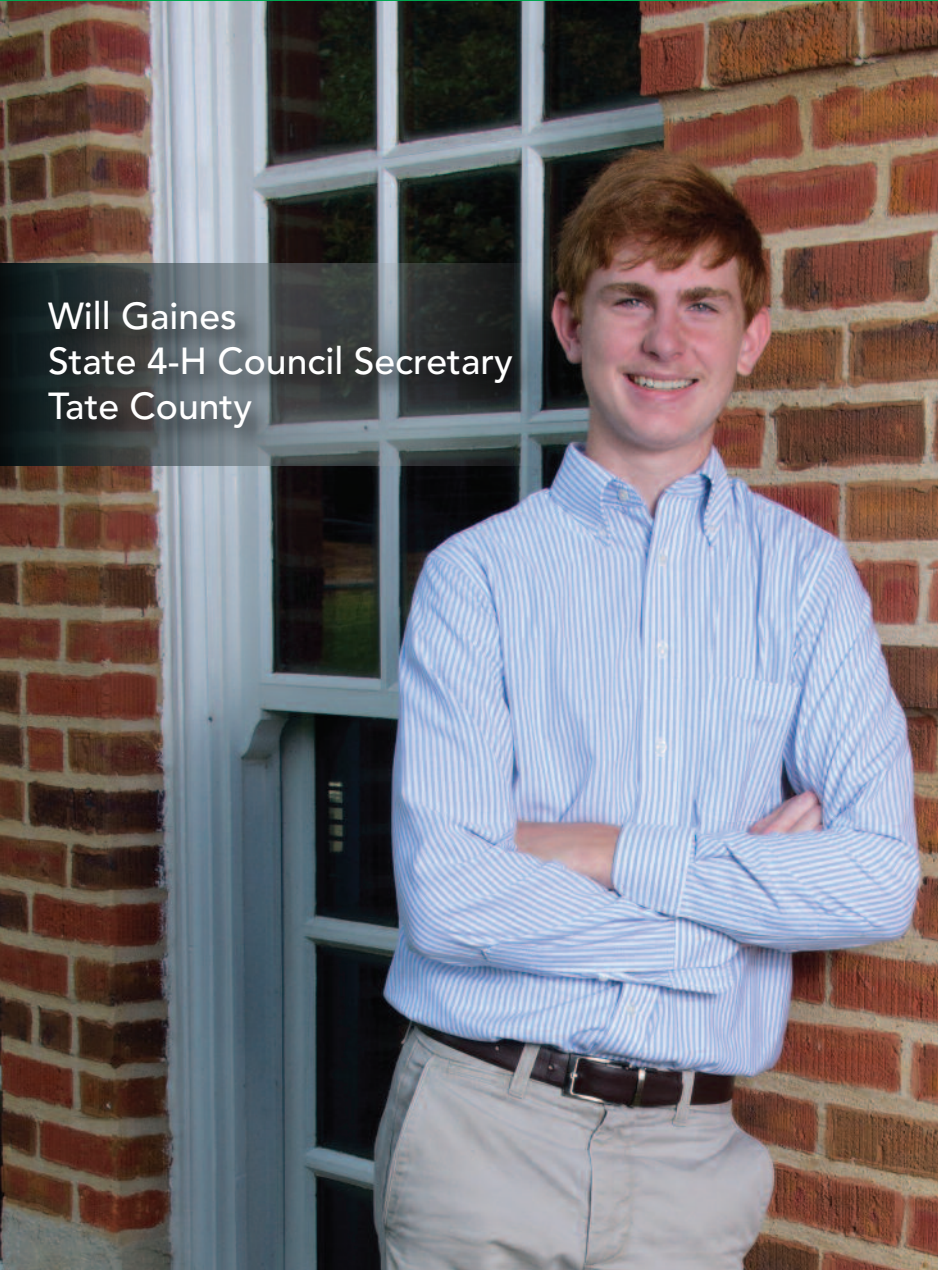
Throughout the conference, we had the opportunity to actually see the Capitol. The awe I felt as I looked up and stared at the Lincoln Memorial was phenomenal. Not only that, but this conference gave me the opportunity to meet and make strong national friendships that I will never forget. We enjoyed rigorous roundtable discussions, political conversations, walking miles upon miles to tour the city, and meeting government officials and our state congressmen. This trip will always be one for the books. Thank you, Mississippi 4-H, for this amazing experience!

Tyler Packer  
State 4-H Vice President  
Greene County





Will Gaines  
State 4-H Council Secretary  
Tate County



In D.C., we were given the opportunity take a night tour of the monuments, and we visited the Capitol, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, some museums on the National Mall, and the National Zoo. We also met the Mississippi state congressmen and senators, as well as other 4-H'ers from across the country and Canada.

I was placed in an "Analyzing Climate" roundtable with 17 members. A few weeks before the conference, the members of my roundtable started to research our topic. NASA presented us with the following questions:

- How can NASA most effectively enroll young people in taking measurements of various environmental conditions by following the existing citizen science procedures to help the agency understand and monitor climate change and its impacts across the United States?
- What will be NASA's best means of engaging 4-H'ers in making and analyzing observations of nature to answer environmental questions in their local communities?
- What resources and support should NASA provide 4-H to help young people become leaders in their communities around these observations?

At first, my roundtable discussed our first thoughts about the challenge questions, then we brainstormed ideas to answer the questions presented by NASA. The group came up with plenty of ideas to answer the questions. We divided the group into three groups according to member interest: purpose, partnerships, and publicity. I was placed into the publicity group. Each of these smaller groups focused on its specific aspect of the challenge. The publicity group focused on websites, apps, advertisements, and social media.





Our presentation to NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center, which was about 45 minutes long, was live-streamed across the globe. We presented NASA with the beginnings of a school curriculum that incorporated their citizen science program, ideas on how to involve as many youth and civic organizations as possible, and tips on gaining and keeping interest by using social media.

After the presentation, we were offered potential positions on an international committee focused on the ideas we presented and the citizen science program in general. Although the roundtables and presentations made the trip very hectic, being able to tour all of these locations and meet many new people was an awesome experience. Thanks, Mississippi State Extension, for making this possible.

## 4-H Programs Offer Many Opportunities!



### 4-H Robotics

Dash and Dot robot made their way to local county Extension offices this year as Extension agents worked in community and school clubs to introduce young people to 4-H Robotics. Pearl River, Webster, Stone, and Yalobusha counties received Dash and Dot robots. These counties also received iPads to help participants learn to program the robots.

In addition to introducing a new robot, 4-H Robotics has been busy implementing Scratch Jr., Scratch, and the MIT App inventor so 4-H'ers can learn to code. Participants at the Columbus Air Force Base in Lowndes County took part in a programming workshop where they learned the fundamentals of coding.

Thanks to a \$1,000 donation from the Chisolm Foundation of Lauderdale County, almost 30 Mississippi counties have received 4-H National Youth Science Day Drone Discovery Kits. Extension delivers the 4-H Robotics program in Mississippi. Participating counties include Amite, Bolivar, Carroll, Choctaw, DeSoto, Grenada, Hancock, Harrison, Humphreys, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lee, Leflore, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Newton, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pearl River, Rankin, Smith, Stone, Sunflower, Tate, Tishomingo, and Yalobusha.



### 4-H Livestock

The Mississippi 4-H Livestock program provides unique opportunities for 4-H'ers to develop life skills while learning about the responsibility and dedication needed to raise beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and horses for competition. Participating in the 4-H livestock project allows 4-H'ers to develop important skills that will allow them to become tomorrow's leaders. It takes countless hours and help from family, club volunteers, and Extension agents to prepare animals for competition in the show ring.

Participation at the Mississippi State Fair and Dixie National Junior Round-Up livestock shows continues to be high. Contributions of time and financial resources by supporters of these programs make them memorable for 4-H'ers each year. The support from buyers at the 2016 Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions made for a record-setting year, as the 43 champion and reserve champion market animals sold for \$348,987. In addition, 35 scholarships were awarded to participants, totaling \$55,500. These accomplishments are possible because of the generosity of many individuals and businesses in Mississippi who buy animals and make contributions toward scholarships.

The Mississippi 4-H Horse program is still strong and competitive. More than 300 4-H'ers competed in horse educational contests and showed 457 horses at the 2016 Mississippi 4-H Horse Championship. The

support received by Extension agents, volunteers, and families for this event is unsurpassed and goes a long way to make this one of the largest and most competitive 4-H horse programs in the southern region.

While 4-H'ers enjoy competition in the show ring, great emphasis is placed on educational contests in the Mississippi 4-H livestock program. Participants are extremely knowledgeable about their project animals, and it is rewarding to see them make a presentation, compete in a quiz bowl or skill-a-thon, judge livestock and defend their placing with oral reasons, and demonstrate their skills in numerous other ways.

Be sure to like *Mississippi 4-H Livestock and Horse Programs* on Facebook.

### 4-H ATV Safety Program

The MSU Extension 4-H ATV Safety program continues to reach young people and adults throughout the state. ATV RiderCourse participants get a waiver on the class cost if they are 4-H members or 4-H volunteer leaders. More than 100 participants completed the 4.5-hour ATV Safety RiderCourse training program in 2016.

The ATV Safety Institute allows a maximum of eight participants (depending on ages of riders) in the RiderCourse at one time. This process helps instructors to administer more individualized instruction to the students.





Seven new ATV Safety Instructors were certified through the ATV Safety Institute ATV RiderCourse program. More instructors allow the MSU Extension 4-H ATV safety program to reach more participants. New instructors are Christy King, Clarke County; BJ McClenton, Clay County; Reid Nevins, Lowndes County; Jason Hurdle, Scott County; Rilondricks Beeman, Jefferson County; Anna Austin, Montgomery County; and Lionell Brown, Wilkinson County.

These new instructors will be able to offer half-day ATV riding classes to young people ages 6–18. The classes consist of step-by-step lessons on how to safely operate an ATV, proper riding gear, and environmental/social concerns for ATV riders.

County Extension agents with ATV safety emphasis in their program list will have a curriculum to take into classrooms, 4-H club meetings, and safety days. These programs will be nonriding activities designed to show the importance of following proper riding habits on ATVs. The county agents will also participate in the RiderCourse so they can understand the entire ATV Safety program.

### 4-H Shooting Sports

The MSU Extension 4-H Shooting Sports program is one of the fastest growing projects in 4-H with more than 4,000 participants enrolled in one or more of the nine shooting sports disciplines offered around the state.



Generation six of the new Shooting Sports Ambassadors included three new members to the state team. All are looking forward to assisting in events on the local and state levels.

More than 400 4-H members competed at the MSU Extension 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational held this year in Meridian. This was a record for attendance at the state invitational.

Thirty-three 4-H members represented Mississippi at a competition in Grand Island, Nebraska. Both team and individuals placed in this national competition. This was the first time that all disciplines were represented. Mississippi was ranked number 11 out of 36 states.



# 4-H *Activities Teach Valuable Skills!*



## **4-H Citizenship and Leadership**

The Mississippi 4-H program emphasizes the importance of young people being engaged, well-informed citizens. The 4-H Citizenship and Leadership project had 4,991 youth participants in 2016. The Mississippi State 4-H Council Officers and State 4-H Ambassadors are a component of the project area and are advocates for the Mississippi 4-H Youth Development Program. They represent more than 60,000 4-H members. They are outstanding youth leaders and are recognized by their distinctive green blazers. They are actively involved in county, regional, and statewide 4-H activities, events, and programs.

The Mississippi 4-H program provides opportunities for youth leaders to improve their cognitive abilities and enhance their leadership, presentation, and teambuilding skills. Mississippi State 4-H Council Officers and State 4-H Ambassadors help plan and implement state 4-H events and activities such as State 4-H Congress, Mississippi 4-H Legislative Day, National 4-H Science Day, Regional 4-H Achievement Days, and 4-H Day at the State Fair.

## **4-H Cooperative Business Leadership Conference**

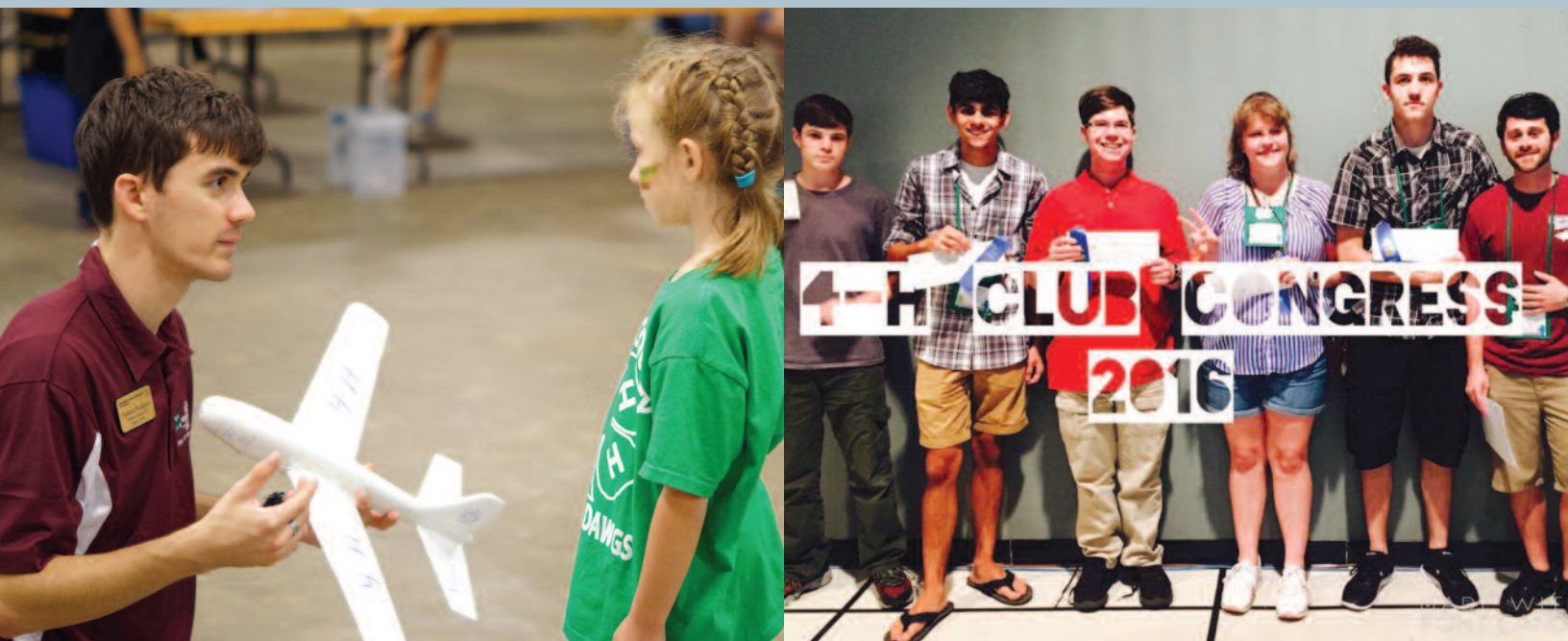
MSU Extension provided 34 4-H members a quality experience at the 2016 4-H Cooperative Business Leadership Conference. The event was held on the MSU campus in July for 4-H'ers who won first place in competition at State 4-H Congress and members of the state ambassador and state leadership teams.

This event offers 4-H'ers across the state the opportunity to participate in fun and interactive activities, learning the importance of cooperating with one another while becoming educated about the business side of Mississippi's agriculture. The 4-H Cooperative Business Leadership Conference, which took participants to four cooperatives in the state, offers educational tours and engaging workshops.

## **2016 National 4-H Congress: Excite, Spark, Ignite**

On the morning after Thanksgiving, 20 4-H members and four MSU Extension professionals traveled to Atlanta to represent Mississippi 4-H as





delegates to the National 4-H Congress. These 15- to 18-year-olds were selected based on their award-winning 4-H records and résumés that pertained to their 4-H project work. The five-day conference focused on leadership and life skills that delegates could continue to enhance upon returning to their home communities and throughout their adult lives. This capstone event of 4-H provided a program filled with seminars, tours, cultural events, dances, and a learning-service opportunity for more than 1,200 delegates from across the country and territories.

### 4-H National Youth Science Day

MSU Extension 4-H hosted the 9th annual 4-H National Youth Science Day at the Mississippi State Fair on 4-H Day. The theme for 2016 was “Drone Discovery.”

Mississippi 4-H Ambassadors and State 4-H Council Officers conduct the experiments with attendees, who had opportunities to design, construct, and test drones. The young people conducted and learned the three basic steps in the engineering design process, which are define, design, and optimize.

Participants learned what drones are and the different roles of engineers, including project manager, lead engineer, data manager, and sensor engineer. They also learned terms such as thrust, gravity, lift, and drag. They engaged in hands-on learning by exploring the flight of a Propcopter and flying an FPG-9 Glider.

Extension agents throughout the state conducted the 4-H National Science Day experiments with in-school and out-of-school groups in their local county programs. Thousands of young people participated in the 2016 4-H National Youth Science Day.

### State 4-H Congress

State 4-H Congress was held in June on the MSU campus. Hosted by MSU Extension, the event is for young people ages 14–18. The theme for the 2016 State 4-H Congress was “4-H: Our Hands to Larger Service.” 4-H members were recognized for first-through third-place, and each winner received a monetary award. More than 600 4-H’ers, adult volunteers, and Extension personnel attended the event.



State 4-H Congress is held every year to give senior 4-H members an opportunity to participate in educational workshops, tours, social activities, and competitive events. The competition aspect of Congress gives young people the opportunity to measure what has been gained through their 4-H project work back in their individual counties and districts. 4-H'ers learn firsthand about the democratic process by voting for the leadership team officers who will be their representatives for the coming year. 4-H'ers were able to listen to campaign speeches before voting electronically.

Congress participants got a memorable opportunity to hear from 2014 Miss Mississippi, American Idol contestant, and Miss America's Outstanding Teen pageant top-10 finalist Jasmine Murray. Jasmine encouraged 4-H members to be all they can be through positive 4-H experiences. Jasmine is a native of Columbus.

### 2016 Project Achievement Days

MSU Extension provides positive youth development experiences through four Project Achievement Day (PAD) events. These events are offered each year for junior 4-H members ages 8–13. The PAD events are held in each of the four Extension regions and feature competitions that measure the skills gained throughout the 4-H project year.

These daylong events provide junior 4-H members an opportunity to experience what senior 4-H members experience at State 4-H Congress but on a smaller scale. PAD events allow junior 4-H members an opportunity to experience the four essential elements of youth development:

**BELONGING**—they belong to an organization that provides life skills.

**INDEPENDENCE**—they learn what it's like to stand on their own and perform.

**GENEROSITY**—they learn to be good sports and to help others.

**MASTERY**—they participate so that others can witness what they have mastered through their 4-H project work.

4-H members 8–9 years old participate in the Cloverleaf Exhibit event and Share-the-Fun activities. The Cloverleaf activity gives young 4-H members an opportunity to stand before judges and share information about their project work.

The PAD events give some 4-H members their very first opportunity to participate in educational events and competitions outside of their county. PAD events in each region have an average of 150–175 4-H participants.





### 4-H Day at MSU Football

MSU Extension and 4-H members, volunteers, and families participated in a 4-H Tailgate before cheering on the MSU Bulldogs to another big win!

4-H Day at MSU Football continues to be an event that 4-H members and their families enjoy. Tyler Packer, 2016–17 State Council President from Greene County, presented an autographed football to Chuck Howell, representing Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, a supporter of 4-H programs in Mississippi.

4-H was well publicized during the football game. Several people stopped by the 4-H Tailgate, where they were able to pick up game tickets, 4-H game day t-shirts, and some tasty food. This event gives 4-H members and their families an opportunity to explore the MSU campus and possible college opportunities before the big football game.

### 4-H Day at the State Fair

The Mississippi State Fair 4-H Village continues to allow 4-H members to have that traditional hands-on experiential learning opportunity by providing a venue for 4-H'ers to display their 4-H project work! These exhibits are displayed in the 4-H Village in the Coliseum Trade Building in Jackson. The exhibits are judged and are displayed during the fair.



4-H members also take part in the grand finale event called 4-H Day at the Mississippi State Fair. This day is filled with educational activities, competitions, and, yes, the excitement of the Mid-Way! 4-H members take part in a fashion revue, robotics activities, public speaking, and the National 4-H Science Day Experiment.

# 4-H Clubs

927 4-H community clubs with 20,340 4-H members\*

59 4-H in-school clubs with 950 4-H members\*

59 4-H after-school clubs with 767 4-H members\*

4 4-H military clubs with 26 4-H members\*

186 special interest and short-term 4-H programs with 31,599 4-H members\*

76 school enrichment programs with 9,295 4-H members\*

\*duplicates not eliminated



## 4-H AT&T Banner Clubs

The 4-H Banner Club program in Mississippi continues to provide young people positive youth development experiences that they will carry with them throughout their lives. AT&T also recognizes the value of having young people participate in the 4-H club program to learn the four essential elements of youth development: belonging, independence, mastery, and generosity. AT&T recognized 10 of the most outstanding 4-H Banner Clubs in Mississippi at the Annual 4-H Legislative Day Celebration held in Jackson.

The Banner Club program is designed to encourage the development of strong, active, and effective 4-H clubs throughout the state. 4-H clubs submit their 4-H Secretary's Record Book to the State 4-H Office to be judged as part of the statewide record book program. Clubs receive monetary awards for their outstanding work. Total awards presented in the past year totaled some \$3,500, which was made possible by AT&T. In addition to the awards presented, AT&T recognized the clubs by inviting senators and representatives to a luncheon in the clubs' honor!



# 2016 Mississippi AT&T 4-H Banner Club Award Winners

Governor Award – Lauderdale 4-H Club, *Lauderdale County*

Lt. Governor Award – Consolidated 4-H Club, *Lee County*

Mr. Speaker Award – Clover Dawgs 4-H Club, *Oktibbeha County*

First Lady Award – Dream Weavers 4-H Club, *Lowndes County*

AT&T Technology Award – Rankin Robotics 4-H Club, *Rankin County*

Commissioner of Ag Award – Agri-Science 4-H Club, *Lauderdale County*

1st Congressional District Award – County Line 4-H Club, *Lee County*

2nd Congressional District Award – Yazoo Young Riders 4-H Club, *Yazoo County*

3rd Congressional District Award – Controller's Generation II 4-H Club, *Oktibbeha County*

4th Congressional District Award – Turners-N-Burners 4-H Club, *Lamar County*

## Rankin County

4-H'ers in Rankin County participated in a series of workshops, camps, and training sessions this summer. These workshops introduced 4-H'ers to various project areas in hopes of sparking their interest in further participation.

- Workshops included Record Books, Kids in the Kitchen, Gardening, Photography, Animal/Veterinary Science, Woodworking, Creative Arts, and Robotics.
- Rankin County Cloverbuds had fun participating in two day camps—the Cloverbud Fun Camp and the Cloverbud Robotics Snow-Tastrophe Camp.
- Ten 4-H'ers completed the ATV Safety RiderCourse at the Rankin County Multi-Purpose Building in Brandon.
- Livestock 4-H'ers from Rankin and Simpson counties learned and practiced proper techniques in a Grooming and Showmanship Clinic in July.

Great collaboration with Extension agents, Extension professionals, Homemaker Volunteers, and local 4-H clubs made these activities successful and fun for Rankin County 4-H'ers!



## Adams County

The Adams County MSU Extension office offered its 4-H youth farm camp for local young people. The farm camp takes 4-H'ers on two days of agriculture and farming educational tours. This camp includes hands-on teaching and education into how agriculture allows us to live our daily lives. Participants get to learn about the process of taking trees from woods into furniture; how the ecosystem of a pond works; and how global positioning

systems (GPS) are used in farming and other aspects of agriculture. 4-H'ers visit several local farming operations and the St. Catherine National Wildlife Refuge and learn about cattle, conservation, aquatic pond management, horses, wildlife observation, forestry, and farming. Sponsors of the camp include Adams County Farm Bureau Federation and Adams County Soil and Water Conservation District.

delightful folk art to paintings and sculptures by some of the most creative artists in Mississippi.

Seventeen members of the Clovers with Ambition 4-H Club completed the Love U 2 program and learned about communication, teen pregnancy, career development, and emotional development. The Love U 2 Relationship Smarts Program is a 13-lesson relationship program designed to be implemented in counties across the state. Several speakers assisted with the Love U 2 Program. Participants were given Easter baskets and homemade cupcakes at the completion of this session.



## Claiborne County

The Clovers with Ambition 4-H Club visited the Attic Art Gallery for its second 4-H inspiration trip, which was designed to prepare members for the upcoming Club Congress poster competition and state fair art exhibits.

Artist Lesley Silver opened her Attic Gallery in downtown Vicksburg 41 years ago and has nurtured the careers of hundreds of artists, while providing a showcase for every imaginable kind of creation. The Attic Gallery is a living record of Mississippi's excellence in the arts.

Mrs. Silver is a distinguished artist and has lifted many of her clients into national prominence. She helped 4-H'ers see beauty and grace in places they had never thought to look. She also told them that art comes from deep within oneself. The works of art in the Attic Gallery range from surprising and

The Claiborne County Little Chefs is a new 4-H club designed to teach 4-H'ers nutrition skills. The new 4-H'ers enjoyed a free, three-day cooking camp hosted by MSU Extension to celebrate National Nutrition Month. Students learned interesting facts about nutrition and were challenged to drink eight glasses of water from the water station without being told to do so. Family Nutrition Program educator Marilyn Gooden taught a lesson on kitchen tools and their uses. Students made delectable treats such as banana split bites, graham cracker funny faces, peanut butterflies, and mini cakes!





### Harrison County

Eight Harrison County 4-H members, six parents, and one MHV member participated in a 6-hour 4-H Sew-A-Thon. These 4-H'ers learned valuable sewing skills, including sewing straight seams, reinforcing seams, pivoting, and running cord in the casing of the bags. They made 25 Santa's bags to be added to the 65 bags that were made by Harrison County MHV members.

### Hinds County

The Hinds County Leadership Focus day camp hosted 50 young people to learn about leadership. They participated in sessions on understanding self, setting personal goals, appreciating differences, communicating with others, and teamwork. They also completed teambuilding activities and "Making the Connection" assessments. Participants ended the camp by playing a game to demonstrate what they learned.

In Hinds County, 34 fourth-graders were challenged to be creative, innovative thinkers when they participated in the 4-H National Youth Science Day's "Drone Discovery." Participants were given scenarios that encouraged them to think like engineers and use drones to solve problems in agriculture and business communities. Students learned about flight dynamics by constructing, flying, and comparing an FPG-9 glider and

propcopter. Groups were challenged to fly a foam drone over a target. A keychain camera was attached to the foam drone, and students got to see video of their flight on the computer.



### Kemper County

Service to others has always been an important part of 4-H, and Kemper County 4-H'ers take that job seriously! More than 20 members of the Mighty Clovers 4-H Club gathered to make fall treats for members of Weems Senior Day Treatment Program in DeKalb. Kemper County 4-H'ers also took part in food and toy drives for local families in need.





Kemper County Extension held a beginner's sewing class for 4-H'ers. Participants learned sewing machine safety and basic sewing skills. They made their very own pillowcase. Extension agent Malikh Jones plans to offer more classes throughout the year.

Students at John C. Stennis Vocation Complex completed the MSU Extension KEYS program to learn about local governments. The KEYS program is designed to help young people understand how county government operates, what county

governments are trying to accomplish, and how the actions of county government affect their lives. Young people are future leaders, and we hope this program is the first step in fostering active and engaged citizens. The program concluded with a graduation ceremony sponsored by Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of Noxubee, Kemper, and Neshoba counties.

### Lauderdale County

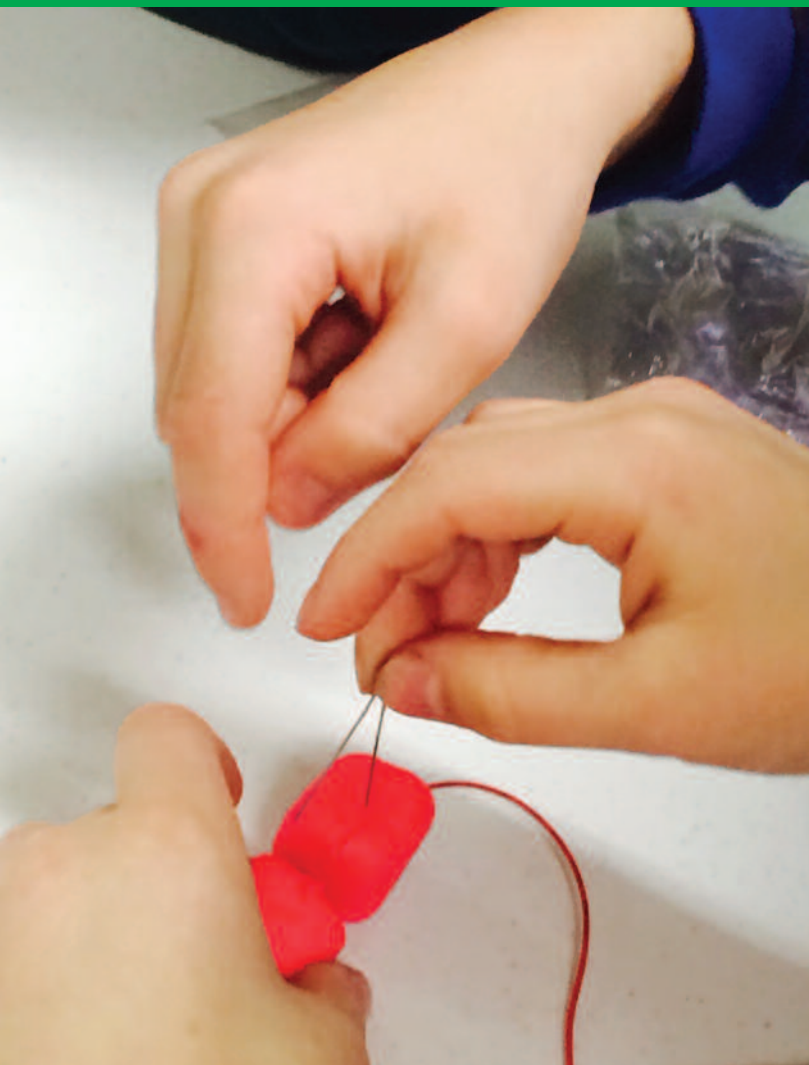
Leadership Lauderdale Youth 4-H Club attended a retreat at Pine Lake Fellowship Camp outside of Meridian, where they learned team-building skills and focused on learning the *7 Habits of a Highly Effective Teen* by Stephen Covey. This is the 17th year of the club retreat. Participants are high school juniors who are selected through a detailed application process.

Members of the Lauderdale County Agri-Science 4-H Club presented Care Lodge, a domestic violence shelter, with school supplies for the children who come through the shelter.

Lauderdale 4-H Club served lunch to Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department employees in support of a "Back the Badge" campaign.







## Newton County

Newton County 4-H'ers stayed busy in 2016. Six senior members attended 2016 Club Congress: TyYonna McCalphia, Trey Alford, Kadrain Robinson, Jacquez Robinson, Sera Hepner, and Zyreaia Tingle. These 4-H'ers wrote letters and created cards for veterans during the event.

Junior members of the Newton County Robotics Club experimented with conductive polymers to create an underwater coral reef during the 2016 robotics kick-off event.

4-H Sewing Club members learned how to make different fabric projects, including hand finishing a

custom pillow. A generous Newton County community member donated a sewing room, which included repairs, painting, custom counters, 10 new sewing machines, and two sergers. Both the 4-H sewing club and adult sewing classes will use the room.

Students and 4-H members in Newton County experimented driving with "drunk goggles" during "I.G.U.: I Got You – Healthy Life Choices for Teens," a day of activities that address healthy relationships, bullying, and suicide prevention.



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